saving emergency medicines are available in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and are issued to the patients admitted in the General Wards and Intensive Care Units. In case of any shortage or non-availability of any emergency medicine in the ward areas, local purchase is resorted to and issued to the patient care areas. For non-emergent medicines and surgical disposables, the patients who can afford including those admitted in the Private Wards are encouraged to buy the same 'from the market. As per the official drug-list prepared by AIIMS, more than 90% drugs are available in the hospital at any point of time. Several steps are also initiated by AIIMS to improve drug supply in the Institute.

Health services for poor and middle class population

259. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to provide adequate and proper health services for the people;

(b) whether Government hospitals are known for their inefficiency, over-crowding and callous attitude of staff; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking to improve these resources, especially for the poor and middle class population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The provision of medical facilities, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged, continues to be a common objective for all those concerned. Government is making every effort to achieve better health care for its people through a variety of measures including the implementation of several National Programmes and renovation and modernisation of the health infrastructure. There has been a tremendous increase in the number of patients being attended to in the Government hospitals over the years. However, due care is taken

by the staff to render services to the patients. Citizen Charters have been implemented in Government hospitals. Grievance officers have also been designated to redress various complaints received.

Information Bank on Herbal Medicines

260. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would create an information bank on ancient herbal medicines, to help avoid confusion by foreign patent offices;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The establishment of a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for Ayurveda has been approved whereby a data base in a patent compatible format is in the process of preparation to forestall patents being given for what is already, in the public domain. No time limit has been fixed but it is expected to be completed in a year.

(c) Does not arise.

Utility of traditional medicines and medical practices

261. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for proper utilization of the traditional methods of tribal and non-tribal medicines and practices for treatment of common ailments and fertility control in the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government are aware of the usefulness of these traditional medicines and practices which are followed since ancient times; and